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HOUSE MEMORIAL 20

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

Peter Wirth

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE GOVERNOR APPOINT A TASK FORCE TO STUDY WAYS TO IMPROVE THE STATEWIDE SYSTEM OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, in every community and geographical area of New Mexico, emergency medical services are important and life-saving to residents who have significant injuries or life-threatening illnesses; and

WHEREAS, residents of and visitors to New Mexico who are seriously injured or critically ill are entitled to receive the highest level of competent emergency medical care; and

WHEREAS, emergency medical services are provided by volunteers and paid professionals in every community in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, for the last ten years, the emergency medical

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1 services system and emergency medical service providers have
2 received a significant reduction of federal, state and local
3 funding for equipment, personnel, training and education needed
4 for emergency medical service delivery and system
5 infrastructure; and

6 WHEREAS, fewer individuals are able to volunteer to serve
7 the community as emergency medical service personnel; and

8 WHEREAS, governmental oversight and accountability for
9 ensuring the competent delivery of emergency medical services
10 has been divided among several independent governmental
11 agencies, none of which has overall responsibility for
12 guaranteeing the residents of New Mexico competent provision of
13 emergency medical services; and

14 WHEREAS, it has been repeatedly demonstrated that
15 adequately funded and administered emergency medical care
16 significantly reduces mortality and morbidity in adults and
17 children; and

18 WHEREAS, the emergency medical service system
19 infrastructure at the state and regional levels is inadequately
20 funded by the state and the amount of federal support has
21 declined dramatically in the last eight years; and

22 WHEREAS, the emergency medical system in New Mexico must
23 be improved to ensure current and future delivery of emergency
24 medical services;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF

.167033.1

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1 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be
2 requested to convene an emergency medical services task force
3 to study and make recommendations to ensure the statewide
4 delivery of emergency medical care in New Mexico; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force identify a
6 unified governmental oversight structure that ensures
7 accountable and responsible emergency medical services,
8 adequate emergency medical service personnel and funding
9 necessary to ensure a statewide emergency medical services
10 system; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force evaluate the
12 level of funding, equipment, training and educational needs for
13 volunteer and nonvolunteer providers of rural and urban
14 emergency medical services in New Mexico; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested to
16 appoint representatives of the stakeholders of emergency
17 medical services, including the three emergency medical
18 services regions, the statewide emergency medical services
19 advisory committee, the rural and urban volunteer emergency
20 medical services, the state firefighters association, the state
21 fire chiefs association, the trauma advisory committee, the
22 statewide organization representing emergency medical
23 technicians, the statewide organization representing emergency
24 physicians and the New Mexico association of counties; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested to

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